Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The South Dakota Geographic Alliance is the state's representation for the National Geographic Society; and,

Whereas, *Geography Action!* is an Alliance-sponsored program about protecting our habitats in our backyard, our community, and beyond because across Earth's surface lie an astounding richness and variety of habitats, along with the plants and animals that live in those habitats, and loss of habitat is the greatest threat to biodiversity; and,

Whereas, *Geography Action!* is an annual conservation and awareness program designed to educate and excite children and adults about our natural, cultural, and historic treasures; and,

Whereas, *Geography Action!* is also an educational outreach program of the National Geographic Education Foundation and the South Dakota Geographic Alliance that engages students and educators in learning about and taking action to protect the earth and its people; and,

Whereas, *Geography Action!* also features a new topic each year, and through partnerships, education activities, and community outreach, issues a call to action to encourage individual and community-based service that reaches more than 70 million kids and adults with the message, "Geography is relevant to their daily lives!"; and,

Whereas, *Geography Action! 2003* will focus on its theme, "Habitats: Home Sweet Home" during the week of November 16-22, 2003:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 16-22, 2003, as

GEOGRAPHY ACTION! 2003 WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State